



Branson Briefs

A monthly e-Newsletter for the community providing information about activities, projects and events in the City of Branson

Volume 3, Issue 5

May 2011

Federal disaster declaration for Taney County

President Obama has ordered federal aid for Missouri to help the recovery from severe storms, tornadoes and flooding that started in late April.

The president declared a major disaster in Missouri, and the declaration allows federal funding for individuals in **Taney County, including Branson** and four other Missouri counties. The assistance includes grants for temporary housing, home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

To apply for assistance, call FEMA at 1-800-621-3362 or www.disasterassistance.gov

City Hall
110 W. Maddux
Branson, MO 65616
417-334-3345
417-334-6095 fax
www.bransonmo.gov

Hours
8-a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Monday – Friday

Mayor
Raeanne Presley

Board of Aldermen
Cris Bohinc
Mike Booth
Rick Davis
Patrick Parnell
Bob Simmons
Rick Todd

City Administrator
Dean Kruithof

**Board of Aldermen
meeting schedule**
2nd & 4th Tuesday
of each month
7 p.m.
Council Chambers

**City offices closed
Monday, May 30
for Memorial Day**



80-year old downtown bridge evaluated

The downtown Veterans Boulevard Bridge over Roark Creek is being evaluated to see what improvements are needed to ensure its longevity. The city received a 100% grant from MoDOT for a structural analysis of the bridge by a professional engineer. He will report his results back to the city around June 1. The inspection is not connected to any of the recent flooding. The bridge has been rehabilitated twice since 1931.

Reception for retiring police chief

A retirement reception for Branson Police Chief Carroll McCullough will be held on Monday, May 23, from 3-5:30 p.m. at the Branson Convention Center. McCullough has been with the police department for 23 years, the last six as police chief. His last day on the job is June 3. City officials are reviewing candidates for the police chief's position and hope to have an announcement in early June.



Fire chief interviews May 20

Six finalists for the position of Branson Fire Chief will be interviewed on May 20. The candidates are from California, Colorado, Kansas, and Missouri. Two of the candidates are from within the Branson Fire Department — Division Chief Charlie Huston and Division Chief Ted Martin. Huston and Martin are serving as interim fire chiefs since former chief Carl Sparks retired May 6.

City sales taxes rising

The city's 1% sales tax revenue received in May, but which reflects March spending, was up 19.8% compared to 2010. And for the year, the sales tax has increased 1% over 2010.

The tourism tax (a tax on ticketed attractions including theaters, lodging and restaurants) increased 38% in April, which reflects March sales activity. For the year, the tourism tax is up 5.3%.

Public meeting May 19 on Comp Plan

A Town Hall Open House for the Branson "Community Plan 2030" has been scheduled for Thursday, May 19, 6:30 – 8 pm in the Fall Creek Room of the Branson Convention Center.

The meeting will give the public an opportunity to review and comment on the draft of the Community Plan 2030 before it goes to the city's Planning and Zoning Commission and then to the Board of Aldermen for final approval.

The draft of Branson's Community Plan 2030 is available for review and download at www.BransonCompPlan.com

Branson has 100+ live shows and 240+ restaurants



Joel Hornickel (left) with
Alderman Mike Booth

City Employee of the Month

The April Employee of the Month Award went to Joel Hornickel, senior planner in the planning/development department. Joel was recognized for going outside his normal responsibilities to help the finance department prepare the city's 2011 budget document. Joel specifically created new and updated organizational charts for each department, and also designed the organizational chart for the city. Joel is credited for giving the 2010 and 2011 budget books a "new and improved" look.

Joel has gone above and beyond his normal duties, which this year has included very heavy involvement in the development and implementation of a comprehensive plan. He exemplifies the Branson value of "Organization built on teamwork."

Citizens' Service Request Line

If you need a question answered about the city, or need to report a problem or express a concern, contact the Citizens' Service Request line at 337-8502. The line is open 24/7 and the city will respond to your request within five working days.

You can also e-mail a request from the city of Branson website www.bransonmo.gov.

Got phone books?

The 2011 Annual Phone Book Recycling Drive begins Thursday, May 19, 4-6:30 pm at the Branson RecPlex. Free pizza, fun, puppies and kittens from local shelters, face-painting, free document shredding, balloon animals...just bring your old phone books.

Local Girl Scouts will receive payment for phone directories brought to the RecPlex on May 19.

If you wish to receive fewer phone books at home or work, you may opt out at www.yellowpagesoptout.com.



Aquaplex opens Memorial Day

You know summer is here when the Branson Aquaplex opens, and the water fun begins Memorial Day weekend. Daily admission is \$4 for youth ages 3-17 and \$5 for adults 18 and up.

Season passes are available for unlimited swims throughout the summer, and if you purchase passes before May 31, you can

save over 15%.

Cameras in police cars

The police department has purchased 8 more video cameras to mount in patrol cars. This will bring to 10 the number of police cars equipped with the dashboard cameras. The cameras will be beneficial in verifying the actions of officers when making stops should questions arise about the conduct of officers or those being stopped.



City crime rate down

Based on the latest crime reports from the police department, Branson continues to be a safe city in which to live and visit. For the first quarter of this year, total crime reports were down almost 11% compared to 2010.

Stop signs removed at two intersections

Stop signs have been removed at the intersections of Cliff Drive at Monroe Street and Stanley Boulevard at Old County Road. Speed humps were installed on Cliff Drive and Stanley Boulevard to slow traffic through this neighborhood, and stop signs are no longer necessary.

Tree Board initiates tree and bench memorials

The Branson Tree Board has created a Memorial Tree and Bench Program. Trees and benches purchased through the program will be planted and placed in city parks, playgrounds, along city trails or road right-of-ways. The program allows groups and individuals to donate trees or benches to memorialize or celebrate a friend, family member or co-worker. Call 337-8549 for more details.



City installs national motto

The motto "In God We Trust" has been placed in the atrium of Branson City Hall. The Board of Aldermen in January approved a Resolution supporting the display of this motto, which is also printed on our coins and engraved in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

Branson Recycle Center 601 Compton Dr

Hours

Tue- Sat 8 am to noon

Thur. 7:30 am to 6 pm

334-5277

New business building permits issued

Jewelry Galore
Branson Landing

Joseph A. Banks
Branson Landing

BCBG Maxazria
Tanger Mall

Our Bodies—The Universe Within
3310 W. Highway 76